

AUGUST 2014

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

NHTSA's Impaired Driving Update

National Impaired Driving Crackdown **August 13 - September 1, 2014**

"My name is Miguel Vera and I am a murderer." Strong words from an offender who killed Roshanda Tangle and lost his left arm in a drunk driving crash in July, 2003. (pictured right with NHTSA Acting Administrator David Friedman)

In an effort to get impaired drivers off the road, raise public awareness about the dangers of impaired driving, and most importantly, to save lives on our roadways, the national impaired driving enforcement crackdown "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" was launched by NHTSA Acting Administrator David Friedman on Aug. 13.



(Pictured left, Lt. David Ennis with NHTSA Acting Administrator David Friedman)

Lt. David Ennis, from the Anne Arundel County Police Department in Maryland, made it very clear, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over."

The Campaign runs through Labor Day, Sept. 1, 2014. For more information or for campaign materials:

[Click here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) has recently posted the following publication:

Report "[State Data System Crash Data Report: 2000–2009](#)" (DOT HS 812 052): Since the early 1980s, NHTSA has been obtaining, from various States, computer data files coded from police crash reports. NHTSA refers to the collection of these computerized State data files as the State Data System (SDS). The SDS is maintained by NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis. Currently, there are 34 States participating in SDS: *Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming*. This report presents descriptive statistic summarizing motor vehicle traffic crashes that occurred from 2000 to 2009 in the SDS. The States' crash data files are unique, contain large amounts of information, and are used by NHTSA analysts for a broad range of motor vehicle traffic crash research and reports and in the development of U.S. DOT regulation and policy.

[2012 Traffic Safety Fact Sheet "Rural/Urban Comparison"](#) (DOT HS 812 050): This fact sheet contains statistics on motor vehicle fatal crashes based on data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). Rural and urban boundaries are determined by the State highway departments and approved by the Federal Highway Administration. In 2012, there were 30,800 fatal crashes resulting in 33,561 fatalities. Rural areas accounted for 53 percent (16,443) of the fatal crashes and 54 percent (18,170) of the fatalities as compared to urban areas that accounted for 46 percent (14,263) of the fatal crashes and 46 percent (15,296) of the fatalities.

[NHTSA NCSA Crash* Stat "Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities for the First Quarter of 2014"](#) (DOT HS 812 055): A statistical projection of traffic fatalities for the first quarter of 2014 shows that an estimated 6,800 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes. This represents a decrease of about 4.9 percent as compared to the 7,150 fatalities that were projected to have occurred in the first quarter of 2013. Preliminary data reported by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) shows that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the first three months of 2014 decreased by about 4.2 billion miles, or about a 0.6-percent decrease.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW PROSECUTOR FELLOW

The National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators (NAPC) in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has selected Valerie Thomsen, Prosecutor II, in Scottsdale, Arizona, to participate in their Prosecutor Fellowship Program. The purpose of the Prosecutor Fellow program is to provide strong communication between the highway safety community and prosecutors who adjudicate motor vehicle and pedestrian offenses. As the Prosecutor Fellow, Ms. Thomsen will participate in community outreach activities and teach at traffic safety seminars. She will act as a spokesperson for NAPC, ensuring prosecutors and citizens are aware of the research and educational opportunities available throughout the country, from NADCP, NHTSA and partner organizations. As Fellow, Ms. Thomsen will be a spokesperson for prosecutors on national issues affecting traffic safety.

Ms. Thomsen is currently employed by the City of Scottsdale Prosecutor's Office in Scottsdale, Arizona. In this capacity, she represents the City in the prosecution of misdemeanor crimes from arraignment to appeal. Ms. Thomsen prosecutes hundreds of drug and alcohol DUI cases each year and routinely conducts jury trials involving complex issues surrounding DUI. Ms. Thomsen is a 1998 graduate of the Arizona State University College of Law.

Thomsen has an under-graduate degree in microbiology & immunology with a minor in chemistry from the University of Arizona. With a background in both clinical and laboratory research, Ms. Thomsen brings significant knowledge and expertise to the field of prosecution. We are pleased to welcome her to our team.



Taking DWI Courts to Scale – A Successful Approach

When: 2:00 PM EST August 28, 2014

The National Center for DWI Courts (NCDC) is hosting a webinar featuring the Honorable Judge Patrick Bowler (ret.). Judge Bowler served on the bench for the 61st District Court in Grand Rapids, Michigan for 24 years. He is currently a Michigan Judicial outreach liaison, and serves as a faculty member for NCDC. Success in saving lives and improving outcomes for victims and communities are well-accepted facts for DWI treatment courts. The challenge for many states is how to increase the availability for all offenders in need of treatment mandated by DWI Courts and the accountability provided by these special courts. This webinar will present the concept of regional DWI Courts, describe the essential cross-jurisdictional agreements and the necessary procedural steps to achieving them. The webinar will also provide a framework for every state to achieve the ultimate goal of insuring the availability of a DWI Court for every eligible individual in their state. [Click here](#) to sign up for this educational opportunity.

JUDICIAL OUTREACH



Continuing in our effort to highlight judicial outreach, this month we spotlight the work of Our Region 5 Judicial Outreach Liaison, Honorable Judge Phyllis McMillen.

Phyllis McMillen was appointed Judge of the State of Michigan 6th Circuit Court in August of 2010. Prior to serving on the Circuit Court, she was a Judge of the 51st District Court in Waterford, Michigan for over fifteen years. She is currently the chair of the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals Annual Training Conference, the past President of the Michigan District Judges Association and the Oakland County District Judges Association. In 2005, she received a Special Recognition Award from the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy for her pioneering work in the creation of Sobriety Court as an alternative for handling drug and alcohol related offenses. She was one of the organizers of the Waterford Coalition for Youth, a community coalition targeting issues of substance abuse and violence, and is a lecturer, contributing author and faculty member for various state and national organizations. Judge McMillen serves on various executive and advisory boards, including the Oakland County Community Corrections Advisory Board. She is a 1974 graduate of Michigan State University, a 1977 graduate of the University Of Detroit School of Law and formerly a member of the law firm Schmidt, Isgrigg and McMillen.

For more information about the Judicial Outreach Program, please contact Linda Fisher-Lewis at Linda.fisherlewis@dot.gov



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